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opposed was not a democratic one. It is felt that neither he nor Mill would necessarily have opposed a positive program of government action where the government is organized on the wide basis of universal suffrage and where therefore class rule does not obtain. It is true that Mill made many concessions which gave evidence that he was in sympathy with the ideals of socialism; but the dominating note in Cobden's philosophy is individualism and freedom. It is difficult for some of us to associate either of these names with municipal trading enterprises.

We cannot speak too highly of this excellent piece of work. In England, perhaps more than in any other country, economic treatises are still written in the full conviction that those who determine the nation's policies are open to the appeal of reason. It was in this spirit that Mill wrote; and, it may be added, the present treatise will not suffer in comparison with the best writing done in England. It is to be hoped that the book will fall generally into the hands of American readers. Imperialism threatens the same blight upon our democratic institutions as it has achieved in England—the same blight as it achieved in China 2,500 years ago.

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Agricultural Economics. By HENRY C. TAYLOR, Assistant Professor of Political Economy in the University of Wisconsin. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1905. 8vo, pp. viii+327.

In this book the emphasis seems to be on economics, rather than on agriculture. In the first chapters, on factors of agricultural production and the economic properties of these factors, we find little more than the ordinary statement of the functions of land, labor, and capital in production. The author has the advantage of a thorough, modern training in economics, and has spent much time in first-hand study of agricultural conditions in different countries. With the abundance of economic textbooks and the scarcity of books on agriculture, it is to be regretted that this author could not have placed more emphasis on agriculture and less on the more difficult and theoretical discussion of economic problems, such as the distribution of wealth, and the organization of farm labor.

In the chapter on "Organization of the Farm" the author upholds the modern tendency to specialization and commercial farming against the earlier ideal and condition of independent self-

sufficiency. One might perhaps question Professor Taylor's statement of the goal which the statesman should have in view, unless he is legislating for the agricultural industry. He says: "The highest long-time average *value* of the product of this industry is, then, the goal, when agriculture is viewed from the *standpoint* of the nation as a whole." Is it not the highest long-time average product, rather than *value* of product, which is important to the nation as a whole?

The other topics treated are: "Size of Farms," "Prices of Agricultural Products," "Value of Farm Lands," "The Farmer's Means of Acquiring Land," "Tenancy and Land Ownership in the United States and in England."

The economic influences which have governed the distribution of population between different industries and different sections of the country receive scant attention. The economic importance of agricultural methods which will maintain soil fertility is not adequately treated. This is a fundamental problem of great magnitude which our wealth of rich land has caused us to neglect, but that does not excuse a writer on agricultural economics from omitting it.

In addition to the theoretical discussions, the book contains a few tables of prices, of tenancy, and other data which add to its convenience as a textbook.

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Model Factories and Villages: Ideal Conditions of Labor and Housing. By BUDGETT MEAKIN. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1905. 8 vo, pp. 480 (209 illustrations).

Mr. Meakin's book is a very interesting one, and much might well be said in praise of the painstaking way in which the author has assembled his material. Its moral effect is greatly enhanced by the really unique set of illustrations with which it is so profusely supplied.

There is undoubtedly a tendency on the part of many of the large employers of labor throughout the world to ameliorate, as far as possible, the conditions under which employees perform their daily work, and this has manifested itself not merely in the improved ventilation and lighting of factory buildings and work-rooms, but in the provision of meals, in the establishment of schools,